

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the February 1, 2007 Office Action. Claims 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47 and 58 are pending and under consideration.

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the instant amendments, claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47 and 58 have been amended to present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47 and 58 have been amended, in pertinent part, to recite “identifying one or more genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures.” Support for the amendments are found in the specification as originally filed, for example, page 5, lines 5-10; page 6, lines 15-17, as well as page 28, lines 8-11, which refers to processing step 216 of the exemplary processing steps illustrated in Figure 2.

Claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47 and 58 have been amended, in pertinent part, to recite, in pertinent part, “communicating said one or more genotypic data structures to a user or practitioner, a display, a readily accessible computer memory or other computer on a network.” Support for the amendment is found in the specification as originally filed, for example, by Figure 1 and accompanying description on page 10, line 22, to page 11, line 33, where, for instance, a user interface 24, display 28, storage unit 34, system memory 38, and a network interface card 36 for connecting to a communication network are provided. The operation of the subroutines are exemplified in connection with the description for Figure 2. An exemplary user interface is illustrated in Figures 7-10 as discussed in the specification from page 28, line 18, to page 30, line 6.

The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as original filed. No new matter is introduced with these amendments. As such, entry of the instant amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

No claim amendment fee is believed to be due since the numbers of independent and total claims have not been changed in the instant amendments.

II. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

A telephonic interview was held on July 17, 2006, in which Examiner DeJong, representing the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Gary Peltz, Guochun Liao,

Brett Lovejoy and Roger Rich, representing Applicants, participated. The rejections of record in the February 1, 2007 Office Action were discussed in connection with independent claim 14.

III. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the February 1, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite on the basis that these claims recite, or depend from a claim that recites, two separate phrases.

A. The rejection should be withdrawn with respect to the phrase “said plurality of genotypic data structures that are not in said one or more genotypic data structures”

Claims 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite on the basis that these claims lack, or depend from a claim that lacks, antecedent basis for “said plurality of genotypic data structures that are not in said one or more genotypic data structures.” The Examiner alleges that this phrase lacks sufficient antecedent basis because the claims do not recite any limitation or step drawn to identifying or determining a set of genotypic data structures that are not in the group of genotypic data structures. In response, Applicants have amended the phrase identified by the Examiner so that it now recites “said plurality of genotypic data structures.” Thus, the rejected claims no longer recite “that are not in said one or more genotypic data structures.”

On page 3 of the February 1, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner states that “[t]here is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the instant claims, as the claims do not recite a limitation or step drawn to identifying or determining a set of genotypic data structures that are not in the group of genotypic data structures resulting from the previously recited step of ‘repeating said establishing and determining steps’ in the instant claims.” Applicants believe that amendments to the claims so that they now recite “identifying one or more genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures” address the Examiner’s concern. The claims as amended require identification of one or more genotypic data structures in a

plurality that have higher correlation values than all other genotypic data structures in the plurality.

On page 3 of the February 1, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner further states that “the instant claims fail to provide a step wherein the correlation values are determined or established for genotypic data structures that are not in the group of genotypic data structures resulting from the previously recited step of ‘repeating said establishing and determining step.’” Applicants respectfully point out that the recited repeating step in Applicants’ claims results in the computation of a correlation value for each genotypic structure in the plurality of genotypic structures, including (i) the genotypic structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures and (ii) the genotypic structures that have correlation values that are not higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures. This is necessarily so because the repeating step repeats the establishing and determining step for each locus in the plurality of loci, thereby establishing the plurality of genotypic data structures in the first place and, for each such genotypic data structure, a correlation value. The identifying step then identifies one or more genotypic data structures from this plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are greater than the correlation values for all the other genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures.

Each genotypic data structure has a correlation value that defines its correlation to a phenotypic data structure. Therefore, in accordance with the identifying step of, for example, claim 14, it is possible to rank all genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures using the correlation values to a given phenotypic data structure, as taught on page 27, lines 26-31, of Applicants’ specification. As taught on page 28, lines 8-17, of the specification, in conjunction with step 216 of Figure 2, once the ranking process is finished, the genotypic data structures that are ranked in the top of the list would be the one or more genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures.

In one embodiment, a cutoff value, shown as element 402 in Applicants’ Figures 4A-4D and described on page 31, lines 22-23, of the specification, identifies the one or more genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures.

Claims 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47, and 58 as amended either recite or depend from a claim that determines correlation values in the same way as claim 14, as amended, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 14 is patentable.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

B. The rejection should be withdrawn with respect to the phrase “high correlation value”

Claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis for the recitation of the phrase “a high correlation value relative to the correlation values of genotypic data structures that are not in said one or more genotypic data structures.” On page 3 of the February 1, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner contends that “the use of the relative term ‘high correlation value’ is indefinite as neither the instant claims nor the instant specification provide a requisite threshold for when a given correlation value is to be considered a ‘high correlation value.’”

In response, Applicants have amended the rejected claims so that the phrase “high correlation value” is no longer recited. For example, claim 14 has been amended to recite “identifying one or more genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures.” As noted in Applicants’ comments in sections III.A, above, the amended claim language has sufficient antecedent basis.

Moreover, the specification provides ample teaching for the selection of the one or more genotypic data structure in the plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in the plurality. For example, page 28, lines 8 to 11, of Applicants’ specification states:

In processing step 216, the genotypic data structures that achieve the highest correlation values are selected. Since each genotypic data structure corresponds to a particular locus in the genome, the selection process in processing step 216 results in the association of the phenotype with particular loci in the organism of interest.

Also, page 28, lines 11 to 14, of the specification states that genotypic data structures that form a correlation value that is a predetermined number of standard deviations above the

mean correlation value are selected. Page 28, lines 15 to 17, of Applicants' specification explains that, in one embodiment, the predetermined number is chosen so that a small percentage of the genome of the organism, such as five percent, will be selected. Additional examples of the choices of one or more genotypic structures that have higher correlation values provided in Applicants' specification include "a genome-wide threshold of ten percent" and a percentage that ranges "from two percent to nineteen percent of the complete mouse genome." See page 34, lines 5-6 and line 16, respectively, of Applicants' specification. Further, the last column of Table 3 beginning on page 33 of Applicants' specification clearly illustrates the thresholds needed (*e.g.*, the choice of the one or more genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the other correlation values in the plurality) to identify a small percentage of the genome of the organism varies with respect to a specific phenotype that is being analyzed (*e.g.*, threshold values of 19, 17, 8, 4, and 2 percent are needed). Further examples of suitable choices for the one or more genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values of all other genotypic data structures are found in Figures 7 through 12 of Applicants' specification. For example, Figure 7 demonstrates that a cutoff value may be chosen to select, for example, a cutoff value of 5%. This means that the top 5% of the genotypic data structures in the plurality of genotypic data structures are selected as the "one or more genotypic data structures" based on correlation values. A toggle function, as depicted in Figure 7, allows the cutoff value to be adjusted according to the type and size of the genotypic data structures. The cited examples clearly demonstrate that the proper choice for the one or more genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the other correlation values in the plurality differs on a case by case basis.

Based on preceding analysis and examples, Applicants respectfully submit that the phrase "identifying one or more genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures that have correlation values that are higher than the correlation values for all other genotypic data structures in said plurality of genotypic data structures" provides a suitable and concrete definition of the metes and bounds of the instant claims. As such, Applicants believe that claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47, and 58 are patentable.

In light of the claim amendments and these comments, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47, and 58 be withdrawn.

IV. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47, and 58 under 35. U.S.C. § 101 because the claims are allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the 35. U.S.C. § 101 rejection could be overcome by amending the communicating step to recite "communicating said one or more genotypic data structures to a user or practitioner, a display, a readily accessible computer memory or other computer on a network." Applicants have amended claims 14, 17, 20, 22, 39, 42, 45-47, and 58 to recite this communicating step. In light of the claim amendments and the above comments, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 39, 40, 42, 45-47, and 58 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

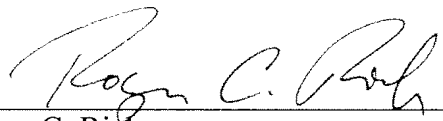
Applicants respectfully request that the present remarks be made of record in the instant application.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in good and proper order for allowance. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and objections and early notification to this effect are earnestly solicited.

No fees, other than those for the Petition for an Extension of Time and for the Notice of Appeal, are believed to be due. However, if any fees are due in connection with this submission, please charge the required fees to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013 (order no. 800935-999015).

Respectfully submitted,

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